

# CAT: GAME OF GLORIOUS UNCERTAINTIES

In some ways, CAT is quite akin to the game of cricket. Both are full of uncertainties, as is life. Both work up a frenzy among their followers, of which there are aplenty. And both thrive on 'expert' opinions of people most of whom are not even related to the 'real' experience! Also, every person can hold an expert opinion about CAT and Cricket and remain 'technically' correct.

## ABOUT BASICS

Winning does not require you to do extraordinary things; it only requires you to do the ordinary things extraordinarily well. This simple mantra is best exemplified by the most successful cricket team of the last two decades, the Australian cricket team. They just focus on the simple stuff - bat well, bowl well, field well. The CAT is no different. It is finally about doing the basics well - select your questions well, manage your time across and within sections well, and focus 'on the moment' rather than thinking about the questions that you have crossed or those you are yet to face. Another thing that characterizes the Australian cricket team is their 'win each session' approach. You can also look at CAT as 10 mini-sessions of 17 minutes each. This will not only make things simpler, but also allow you to react faster to any problems that you are facing.

## BE YOURSELF AND RELAX

After all, it's a game. It is not a matter of life and death. A little tension usually gets the adrenaline flowing. But then you shouldn't lose perspective. You play to win but a good sport knows that defeat will come along once in a while. There are times when others will do better than you do. What you look to do is to maximise your chances of success. And the only way you can do that is by being yourself.

## ADAPT TO THE CONDITIONS

A good bowling performance at the small and batsmen-friendly Ferozeshah Kotla would result in very different statistics from those reflecting a good bowling performance under the seaming, swing-friendly conditions at the Oval. And the same goes for CAT - adapting to a given test structure is the key to success. Any time that is spent in figuring out your target under the given conditions, or the best approach to a given test, is not time wast-

ed; it is in fact an investment that allows you to best utilize the remaining time.

## OF THE POWER PLAY & SLOG-OVERS

You watch a T-20 game of a side that finishes with a great score closely enough and you realise a couple of things - the side is likely to have got off to a solid, if not a runaway start, and the side is likely to have made the last few overs count big. What happens in the middle overs is that the side just

tries to keep above a certain scoring rate without losing too many wickets. Just try and think of how this strategy is likely to work in the CAT - you should start with an area that you are comfortable with, and try to end with an area that you are really confident of.

## THE POWER OF 'LUCK'

Just as they say in cricket - Form is temporary, class is permanent. So, in CAT too, if you have it in you, it will show, sooner or (than) later.

Another important lesson here is that 'When you are in form, make every ball and every innings count'. So, never be complacent and always translate your form into big scores. This will give you the confidence to do well in the 'match' - CAT - that counts.

## IT'S NOT OVER TILL IT'S OVER

How many times have you seen a cricket match turning on its head several times during those few hours? As Sidhu paaji says - it's not

over till the fat lady sings! The fat lady in CAT might be the timer on your computer screen that will finally display - "STOP, time over". But until

that time, you need to believe that you have a chance if you simply keep on making best use of the remaining time and keep giving your best.

So, all you CAT aspirants out there - be a sport, play hard and play well, give it your best - and enjoy it. It's a game after all - a game of

glorious uncertainties just like cricket is - only the name is CAT.

—Deekshant Sharawat, founder, MHA Guru, Roots Education